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FLOOR DEBATE

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for. Thank you.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Chambers.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. President and members of the Legislature, that vote that you just gave really slapped the Governor and put him in his place, didn't it? I think what the...what the body did was to show the Governor that when he sends a phalanx of people over here, like he did, that this Legislature is going to stand up to him and not take that mess anymore. They are fed up. They've had it up to the gills. Not only are they telling the Governor they have advanced this bill, they are going to vote it on final passage, and they are going to override his veto, and they dare him to do anything he thinks he's big enough to do. However, Senator Ray Janssen, being the savvy, wily individual he is, probably has had conferences with the Governor and scared him off this bill, and all the people that I'm being told about who are from HHS are just to provide cover to make it appear the Governor is still against it when, in fact, he's not. And between the vote that was taken today and Final Reading, some things will intervene where the Governor can then publicly come out and say that the people from HHS misread his memo. Instead of saying do oppose this bill, the word "not" had been deleted or not put in there. He had instructed them not to oppose this bill. So that's how they'll straighten it all out. But I'm going to watch and see how this particular scenario plays out. I say, again, the bill, itself, does not have that much confidence...significance. If this vote that was just taken is a signal that the Legislature, as an institution, is going to assume its responsibilities across the board, I then am gratified by the...by the vote. And we will see, when we get to the budget, whether that is the case or not. In the meantime, because this bill does not have a great amount of significance, it provides the opportunity to discuss various items, not just in the bill, but the relationship that exists between the executive and the legislative branches. I have always maintained that the Legislature needs to stand up to the executive and the judicial branches of government as the body which controls the purse strings. The Legislature allows itself to be pushed around and kicked around too much. If that vote that was just taken signals that that being kicked around is now